



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Spot Report
Deer Park, Texas
May 14, 2019**

Incident Management Objectives:

Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recover off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The impacted ITC facility tank farm consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to the drainage pathway. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing tank products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the north side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night along the ship channel.

EPA created the EPA website [response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire](https://www.epa.gov/ITCTankFire) on March 17, 2019 and began sharing information with the public. EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

Executive Overview:

- ITC began the deconstruction of tank 80-15 on May 13th, 2019. A fully dedicated firefighting team will be at the work area for the duration of the work. In addition, numerous mobile air monitoring equipment and personnel will closely monitor and react to any air or safety concerns that may arise inside or outside of the impacted tank farm.
- **At approximately 11:45 AM, on May 14, 2019 during the deconstruction of tank 80-15, a small flash fire developed. The pre-staged firefighting crews extinguished the fire quickly. There was visible smoke from the impacted tank farm. There were no injuries or off-site impact as a result of the incident. Air monitoring during the incident did not identify any elevated benzene levels during the time of the fire.**
- State and Local Government Agencies were notified at approximately 12:00 PM.

Community Air Monitoring:

- EPA, TCEQ, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring and there have been no reports of benzene readings above the Action level. EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring, and the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) will continue sampling in surrounding communities.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on May 13, 2019 to May 14, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCV for toluene or xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm) only on May 13, 2019, adjacent to the ITC facility, on Independence Parkway, prior to the flash fire. This information has been shared with unified command and local officials.